



8011-01p
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-65772; File No. SR-CBOE-2011-086)

November 17, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule to Increase the Number of Series Permitted Per Class in the Short Term Option Series Program

I. Introduction

On September 19, 2011, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“CBOE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to increase the number of series permitted per class in the Short Term Options Series Program. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on October 6, 2011.³ The Commission received no comment letters on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

The proposed rule change seeks to amend CBOE Rules 5.5 and 24.9 to increase the number of Short Term Options Series (“Weekly options”) that may be opened for each option class that participates in the Exchange’s Short Term Option Series Program (“Weeklys Program”).⁴ Currently, Exchange rules allow a total of 20 series to be opened for trading in each class that

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65445 (September 30, 2011), 76 FR 62102 (“Notice”).

⁴ In 2005, the Commission approved the Weeklys Program on a pilot basis. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52011 (July 12, 2005), 70 FR 41451 (July 19, 2005) (SR-CBOE-2004-63). In 2009, the Commission approved the Weeklys Program on a permanent basis. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59824 (April 27, 2009), 74 FR 20518 (May 4, 2009) (SR-CBOE-2009-018).

participates in the Weeklys Program. The proposed rule would increase this to a total of 30 series per class that may be opened for trading.⁵

In the Notice, the Exchange stated that the principal reason for the proposed expansion is market demand for additional series in Weekly option classes in which the maximum number of series (20) has already been reached. Specifically, CBOE cited an increased demand for more series when market-moving events, such as corporate events and large price swings, have occurred during the life span of an affected Weekly option class. Currently, if the maximum number of series has been reached, the Exchange must delete or delist certain series in order to make room for more in-demand series. The Exchange deletes series with no open interest and delists series with open interest if those series are open for trading on another exchange.

III. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁶ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be

⁵ The Exchange previously increased the total number of series per Weeklys option class from seven to 20 series. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58870 (October 28, 2008), 73 FR 65430 (November 3, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-110). The existing rules provide that series must be added pursuant to CBOE Rules 5.5 and 24.9. Initial series shall be within 30% above or below the closing price of the underlying security on the preceding day. Any additional strikes listed by the Exchange shall be within 30% above or below the current price of the underlying security. The existing rules also provide that the Exchange may open additional strikes of Short Term Options Series that are more than 30% above or below the current price of the underlying security if demonstrated customer interest exists for such series, as expressed by institutional, corporate, or individual customers or their brokers. Market-Makers trading for their own account are not considered when determining customer interest.

⁶ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Commission believes that the proposal strikes a reasonable balance between the Exchange's desire to offer a wider array of products and the need to avoid unnecessary proliferation of options series.

In approving this proposal, the Commission notes that the Exchange has analyzed its capacity and represents that it and the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") have the necessary systems capacity to handle the potential additional traffic associated with trading of an expanded number of series for classes that participate in the Weeklys Program. The Commission expects the Exchange to monitor the trading volume associated with the additional options series listed as a result of this proposal and the effect of these additional series on market fragmentation and on the capacity of the Exchange's, OPRA's, and vendors' automated systems.

IV. Conclusion

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸ that the proposed rule change (SR-CBOE-2011-086) be, and it hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Kevin M. O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

[FR Doc. 2011-30196 Filed 11/22/2011 at 8:45 am;

Publication Date: 11/23/2011]

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).